

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 115959

20

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 VO-03 CU-02 /017 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:WTCLUVERIUS:ACR

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

SCA:LFWALENTYNOWICZ

SCA/VO:DBLEVINS

----- 076513

R 120517Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 115959

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, SA, KU

SUBJECT: A-2 VISAS FOR STUDENTS

1. PROBLEM OF ISSUING A-2 VISAS TO KUWAITI AND SAUDI STUDENTS HAS BEEN RESOLVED AS RESULT INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH CONGRESS BY SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS. AMBASSADORS OF KUWAIT AND SAUDI ARABIA INFORMED MAY 4, IN SOME DETAIL, OF PROBLEMS INVOLVED AND OF LIKELY OUTCOME OF DISCUSSIONS, AND ON MAY 6 OF ACTUAL OUTCOME. DECISION HAS BEEN MADE THAT A-2 VISAS WILL NO LONGER BE ISSUED AFTER AUGUST 31, 1976 TO STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT BONA FIDE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES. FURTHERMORE, BY OCTOBER 31, 1976, ALL SUCH STUDENTS IN U.S. HOLDING A-2 VISAS MUST HAVE ADJUSTED THEIR STATUS TO EITHER F OR J VISAS. THUS, SAUDI AND KUWAITI STUDENTS AFTER AUG 31/OCT 31 WILL ENTER/RESIDE IN U.S. ON SAME TERMS AS STUDENTS, SOME 200,000, OF ALL OTHER FOREIGN NATIONS- USE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 115959

OF B VISA FOR "INTENDING STUDENTS" WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR

EXCEPTIONAL CASES.

2. WHILE SAUDI AND KUWAITI AMBASSADORS CLEARLY NOT PLEASED BY THIS CHANGE IN DECADES-LONG PRACTICE, AND BOTH MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY COULD NOT PREDICT REACTIONS OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS, THEY SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND THAT THERE WAS NO

CHOICE BUT TO END THE A-2 PRACTICE AND THEY WELCOMED ASSURANCE THAT DEPT PREPARED WORK CLOSELY WITH THEIR STAFFS IN MAKING TRANSITION AS SMOOTH AS POSSIBLE. ONE OF KEY POINTS RAISED IN CONGRESS IN CRITICISM OF A-2 VISAS FOR STUDENTS WAS LACK OF KNOWLEDGE WITHIN USG OF WHEREABOUTS AND SCHOOL AFFILIATIONS OF THESE STUDENTS. BOTH AMBASSADORS UNDERSTOOD THIS POINT AND OFFERED SUPPLY DEPT WITH THIS INFO, THOUGH ON CLASSIFIED BASIS SINCE IN CASE OF SAUDIS THERE IS CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING ATTEMPTS. BOTH AMBASSADORS AGREED MAY 6 TO APPOINT MEMBERS OF THEIR STAFFS MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THEIR STUDENTS (FOR KUWAIT A CONSULAR OFFICER AND FOR SAUDI ARABIA THE HEAD OF EDUCATIONAL MISSION IN HOUSTON) TO MEET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PROBABLY DURING WEEK OF MAY 17, WITH DEPT VISA EXPERTS.

3. AMBASSADORS WERE AT FIRST CONCERNED THAT END OF A-2 VISA PRACTICE FOR STUDENTS WOULD ALSO CHANGE A-2 VISA ELIGIBILITY OF MILITARY TRAINEES AND BONA FIDE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES. IT WAS MADE CLEAR TO THEM THAT A-2 VISAS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ISSUED TO SUCH ELIGIBLE CATEGORIES. WAS MADE CLEAR AS WELL THAT WE WILL WORK WITH THEM TO ASSURE THAT THE HANDLING OF BORDERLINE CASES--WHERE, FOR EXAMPLE, STATUS OF APPLICANT AS GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE MIGHT NOT BE CLEAR--IS KIND OF ISSUE WE WILL SEEK TO RESOLVE IN TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THEIR STAFFS.

4. MUCH OF THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY AMBASSADORS OVER TERMINATION OF A-2 PRACTICE SEEMED TO STEM FROM THEIR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE ALTERNATIVES, PARTICULARLY OVER THE PROBLEM OF STUDENTS WHOSE ENGLISH MUST BE UP-GRADED SIGNIFICANTLY BEFORE DOING ACADEMIC WORK AND BY THEIR FEAR THAT STUDENTS WILL BE INCONVENIENCED BY A

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 115959

HEAVY PAPERWORK BURDEN AND PERHAPS MADE MORE VULNERABLE TO "HARASSMENT" BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES. DEPT BELIEVES, AND HAS STRESSED TO AMBASSADORS, THAT NEW PROCEDURES SHOULD NOT PROVE OVERLY BURDENSOME TO STUDENTS. WE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT AS SAUDI AND KUWAITI OFFICIALS LEARN ABOUT F AND J REQUIREMENTS THEY WILL UNDERSTAND THAT MANY OF THEIR PRESENT FEARS WERE GROUNDLESS.

5. FOR JIDDA, KUWAIT, DHAHRAN. FOREGOING FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY. DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING DECISION WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL WHEN DETAILS HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT. MEMCONS OF TALKS WITH AMBASSADORS BEING POUCHED.

6. FOR DOHA. IN RESPONSE YOURTEL 500, YOU MAY INFORM GOQ OF BASIC FACT THAT AFTER BRIEF TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, ALL STUDENTS FROM WHATEVER COUNTRY WILL BE TREATED ALIKE. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENTS, VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE115959
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WTCLUVERIUS:ACR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760182-1173
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760562/aaaacbdw.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: A-2 VISAS FOR STUDENTS
TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, SA, KU
To: JIDDA KUWAIT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006